



Volume 42
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Jefferson

Message from the Parish President. . .

That Time of Year Again! Being Prepared for Hurricane Season

As we enter the halfway mark of 2021, it's important to remember safety and preparedness going into the start of hurricane season. Now is the time to make a plan that works for you and your family prior to the first hurricane warning being issued. Preparation is so very important because waiting until the last moment may have dire consequences.



Cynthia Lee Sheng
Parish President

Jefferson Parish Is Ready!

Jefferson Parish is prepared to deal with potential impacts. We have reviewed and updated our emergency plans and have assigned and trained our essential personnel for their duties. Additionally, 114 of 131 electric pumps are now automated; construction is complete on a number of pump stations; 11,500 feet of drain lines have been repaired or installed; and 63 miles of drain lines and 50,000 catch basins have been cleaned.

Personal Responsibility

Residents should still be prepared to evacuate if given the order. Even well built houses may not stand up against an extreme storm,

and power outages may last for several days/weeks, depending on the damage. All are encouraged to stock up on emergency supplies for your home and car including: batteries, flashlights, a first aid kit, prescription medicines, one gallon of water per day for each person and pet, at least a 3-5 day supply of non-perishable food, and a list of emergency contacts and locations you can access in a hurry.

Utilize Resources!

Being prepared and informed is the first step towards safety during hurricane season. Remember to check our official Jefferson Parish social media channels for real-time updates and sign up for alerts by texting JPALERT or JPNOTICIAS to 888-777.



JeffTalk

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- Water** Lakeisha Joseph
- Workforce Connection**
Carolyn Haynes

Editor's



Notes

**Keeping Us Healthy:
 Health & Wellness Initiatives**

As we all gradually get back to normal, I'd like to share with you some news to help us keep wellness in our routines.

Back Health Month

June is Better Back Health Month, which makes it an ideal time to discuss how to protect ourselves from back stress or injury at work. All month long our Health Engagement Coordinator, Jenna Keating Schexnaydre, will share information on back health, proper ergonomics, and workstation stretching.

New Virtual Wellness Classes

You can look forward to viewing two new classes in the Virtual Wellness Series as well: *Torso Tuesday* and *Time Out Thursday*. *Torso Tuesday* will focus on back stretches that you can do from your desk throughout the day. *Time -Out Thursday* will offer a slow, full body stretch, perfect for releasing midday stress. You can sign up for these classes via the weekly *Wellness Wednesday* newsletter.

Chug-A-Lug Challenge

July is Summer Safety Month and also time for the Chug-A-Jug Challenge. The Chug-A-Jug Challenge is a 31-day hydration challenge that encourages everyone to drink more water. With our summer



Nicole Thompson, Editor

heat on the rise, staying hydrated is imperative. Participants must drink one gallon of water per day to reach the Chug-A-Jug Challenge goal. Winners will receive a water bottle. Look for the SignUpGenius link to register in mid-June.

Immunization Awareness

August is Immunization Awareness Month. The last fifteen months have surely shown us that this is an important topic. Jenna has already begun the planning process with her recent email to LCMC about Flu Shot events. She anticipates that onsite Flu Shots will be held in either August or September, and she will keep you updated.

Mobile Mammographies

Also, we will host our first onsite mobile mammography event on Thursday, August 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Yenni Building. Participant spaces will be limited. So we strongly recommend that employees sign up for screenings. Registration will begin in mid-July. If all goes well, we will add quarterly mobile mammography to our health services.

We wish everyone a fun and healthy summer; and please remember that more information and health tutorials remain available on the JPG Intranet Portal.

Fleet Management

By
Amy Truesdell

Fleet has plenty of good news to report. The biggest news is that after the unveiling of the new Parish logo, Fleet has been working hard with our decal vendor to create new logos for our vehicles. With over 1600 vehicles, that is a tall order, but we know we can handle the job! For now our protocol will be to decal all new vehicles that are ordered and phase in current vehicles over time. Be on the lookout for the new design on the streets of Jefferson Parish.



Lenni Uli with the new Parish logo

Staff News

Fleet has a new Typist Clerk II, **Ms. Dejoni Freelow**. She is a great addition to our staff; she has a warm smile, friendly manner, and is always ready to help. Two of our employees receive their service pins: Maintenance Repairman **Wardell Vontoure, Sr.** for five years; and Automotive Line Foreman **Brett Lachute** for ten years. Speaking of Brett, we need to give him a big congratulations for being promoted to Automotive Maintenance Foreman. Brett has made a very smooth transition into his supervisory role.

Keeping the Parish Rolling: Tire Shop News!

One of the goals of our Director was have a great Tire Shop. It took some time to find the right



New in the Tire Shop: Seth Gray, Bernard Palmisano, and Dalton Chiro

employees, but he believes he has. Introducing the newest members of our Tire Shop: Automotive Work Control Supervisor **Dalton Chiro** is a former employee of Fleet Management who left to become a mechanic supervisor of St. Tammy Fleet Management. He has over 17 years of experience and not only will he be running our Tire Shop, he will also be supervising mechanics in the garage. With his knowledge and experience, Dalton is a major asset to Fleet.

The next new member of the team is Auto Mechanic Trainee **Bernard Palmisano**, a former supervisor with a private tire company with 16 years of management experience leading a staff of 125 employees.

Finally, please welcome Automotive Mechanic Trainee **Seth Gray**. Seth is the youngest member of the group, but has attended automotive maintenance classes and has worked over two years in a fast-paced

tire facility in the private sector. He is familiar with the newest innovations in tire repair and replacement. Fleet has also purchased new equipment for more efficient tire repair. Along with our two veteran Tire Shop employees, Director **Randy Belanger** believes this will be a top-notch tire service facility.

Finally, let's give a big round of applause to our Employee of the Year, Automotive Mechanic Sr. **Michael Boudreaux**. Our Director had this to say about Mike: "He is a team player; one of the hardest working employee in the department. Mike is always willing to help others and goes outside of his job duties to accomplish a goal." Randy also said that Mike is great under pressure and rarely needs supervision. Mike is one of our go-to people and can be counted on to get any job done without any questions asked. Way to go, Mike!



Fleet's Employee of the Year Mike Boudreaux with Director Randy Belanger and Superintendent Bruce Vosbein

Code Enforcement

By
Adonna White

Retirements/Resignations:

The entire staff of Inspection and Code Enforcement would like to congratulate Assistant Director **John Piglia** and Executive Assistant **Linda Fairchild** on their retirement from Jefferson Parish. Both were employed for 33 years at Jefferson Parish. Good luck, John and Linda!



Aimee Vallot and Linda Fairchild

Congratulations to **Emanuel Wilkerson**, Computer Network Specialist, for receiving his 5-year service pin; **Yolanda Howard**, Typist Clerk III, for receiving her 10-year pin; and **Mike Hale**, Mechanical Inspector II, for receiving his 15-year pin.



John Piglia and Aimee Vallot

Inspection and Code Enforcement would also like to congratulate Plan Reviewer II **Gerard Gutierrez** on his retirement after 27 years with Jefferson Parish. Good luck to you, Gerry!

Congratulations to **Danny Ferrara** on his promotion to Assistant Director!

Congratulations to **Latrice Alexander** on her promotion to Administrative Assistant!



Adonna White, Yolanda Howard,
Aimee Vallot



Aimee Vallot, Michael Hale,
Lloyd Juneau

Juvenile Services

By
Vicki Borja

Employee of the year:

Please join me in taking a moment to congratulate **Malcolm Fredericks, II** for being selected as the DJS Employee of The Year for 2020-2021. Thank you for over 14 years of dedicated service to DJS, as well as all of the Juvenile Justice Complex employees and the youth and families we serve at all of our locations. Keep up the great work and good luck with your nomination for the overall Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Joseph S. Yenni Award!

NEW EMPLOYEES:

We would like to introduce new employees **TaRance Martin**, who was hired as a Detention Officer, and **Minh Dang**, who was hired as a Trades Helper. We are pleased to welcome you.



TaRance Martin



Minh Dang



Paul Pham, Gerard Gutierrez, John Piglia, and Danny Ferrara

SERVICE PINS:

15 years:

Chantrell Cook
Gerald Daniels
Anita Hunter
Brett Jackson
Kelly Keller

10 years:

Cassandra Cutno
Gwen Brown
Mark Duplessis

5 years:

Luis Bustamante
Kisha Calix
Brittany Grice

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

Congratulations to the following for their dedicated service and being selected Employee of the Month. Keep up the good work!

March 2021

Detention: **Robert Warren**, Detention Officer
Probation: **Danielle Phillips**, Probation Supervisor

April 2021

Detention: **Jarvik Tuckson**, Detention Officer
Probation: **Matt Villio**, Acting Probation Manager



DJS staff planting citrus trees behind DJS Administration Building

May 2021

Detention: **Reginald Francis**, Detention Officer
Probation: **Toyane Faulkner**, Mental Health Professional

PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations to **Marcus Crosby** on his promotion to Mental Health Professional II, and **Jacqueline Taylor**, on her promotion to Detention Officer II.

DEPARTURES:

Earl Fox, Detention Officer, and **Lisa Powell**, Mental Health Professional, left the department. Good luck to you both.

Parkways

By
Karen Jackson

Correction:

Pam Bailey was with the Purchasing Department (not Planning, as we reported in the March issue) before coming to Public Works – Parkways. Sorry for the error!

Welcome new employees:

Parkways would also like to welcome new Eastbank employees: **Spencer Fossier** (Laborer), **Maurice Moody** (Equipment Operator I), **Yonni Matthews** (Laborer) and **Terrell Celestine** (Equipment Operator I). They have joined the labor crew at the right time. We are coming upon our busy season and welcome you all!

Congratulations goes out to **Ronald Stackhouse** on 23 years of service to the Parish. Ronald has been with Parkways since 2000 and has performed many different functions over the years. He says his expertise is “leading the crew and teaching them how to get the job done as efficiently as possible! I’m not ready to retire yet, I’ve still got plenty of work to do.”

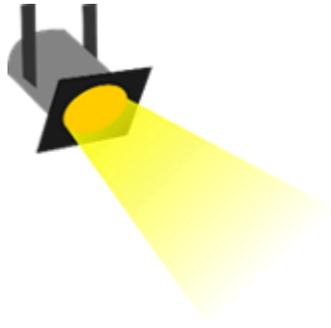


Juvenile Services Employee of the Year Malcolm Fredericks with Director Roy Juncker



Superintendent Ronald Stackhouse with Parkways Director Bryan Parks

SPOTLIGHT



Our spotlight shines on **Damon Weatherspoon**, our Employee of the Year!

Director Bryan Parks says, “Even though Damon has only been with the Department for one year, he has made a huge impact. Damon has prior experience as a tree cutter for a private company and was able to use those skills to quickly take on a leadership role on a Parkways tree crew.



Parkways Employee of the Year
Damon Weatherspoon

“Damon has received many emails and letters from citizens complimenting his work and his attitude. He shows up to work



Spencer Fossier



Maurice Moody

New Faces at Parkways



Yoni Matthews



Terrell Celestine

each day with a positive outlook and a calm demeanor. In addition to his knowledge of the work, safety record, and his great personality, Damon

is also very respectful of his tools and equipment.”

Wow, what more can you ask for? Congratulations, Damon!

Finance

By
Jasmine Hamilton

It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that we mourn the loss of our friend and team member **Jules (Jay) Joseph Yambra, Jr.**, who passed Friday, February 19, 2021, at the age of 59.



Jules "Jay" Yambra

Jay was a lifelong resident of Metairie, Louisiana, and a dedicated Jefferson Parish employee for over 28 years. Jay first began working with Jefferson Parish on December 26, 1992, as an Account Clerk for the Library before working as an accountant at Community Development. From there, he joined our team and came to Accounting in 1999 and has been with us ever since. Jay was the Supervising Grant Accountant for the Accounting Department and has worked closely with all of the Grant Departments in his time with Jefferson Parish.

Jay was an active member of the New Orleans Elks Lodge #30 for the last 29 years and has served as this organization's Treasurer for the last 6 years. Additionally, he served on various other committees and was also a former captain of Elks Krewe of Jeffersonian Parade. Jay was known for enjoying everything

about Mardi Gras, for being an avid Saints fan, and for being a long-time season ticket holder. He was always eager to discuss the game when asked and was a treasured friend to many.

We were all extremely lucky to have had him in our lives and he will be missed immensely. His quirky jokes, warm-hearted nature, scrupulous attention to detail, humorous laugh and smile will remain with us all. Please keep Jay's family and friends in your thoughts as they go through this difficult time.

New Hire

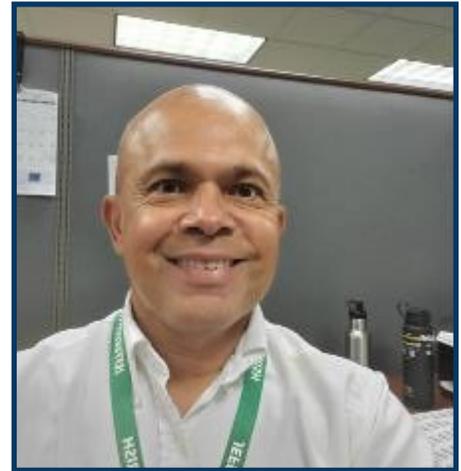
We are pleased to welcome our new Finance Executive Assistant, **Cory Durr**. She came to us as a Public Works Business Manager, Assistant, from the Drainage Department in March. We are thankful to have her join the Finance department family. Welcome, Cory! And best of luck to you as you become accustomed to your new position.



Cory Durr

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome our new Accountant 1 Central Finance Office worker, **Javier Ochoa**, to our little department family. He worked at the E N Morial Convention Center as a Staff Fixed Asset Accountant and joined us in early April. Welcome, Javier! Best of luck to you as you become accustomed to your new position.



Javier Ochoa

Promotions

Congratulations to **Quiana Brown** on her promotion as our new Accountant II Central Finance Office worker. Quiana has been with the Parish since 2003 and started as our Accountant I for Finance in 2013. Afterwards, she was promoted to Budgeting as an Accountant III. In 2016, she transferred to Community Development as an Accountant II before coming to our Accounting Department as an Accountant I for Central Finance Office where she then got promoted to her current position as our Accountant II CFO Worker. This promotion recognizes the contributions Quiana has made to Jefferson Parish and we are happy for her new promotion. Please join us in congratulating Quiana Brown as she takes on these new responsibilities.

Congratulations to **Nhi Bui** on her promotion as our new Accountant II Grants Central Finance Office worker. Nhi Bui first started with the Jefferson Parish Accounting Department in June 2016 as an Accounts Payable Clerk. Later on, she transferred to JeffCAP and then Workforce as an Accountant II. In December 2019, she returned back to the Accounting Department. Please join us in celebrating her promotion as our new Accountant II Grants Central Finance Office Worker.

Purchasing

By
Mark Buttery

Hurricane Season Procurement Preparation

Hurricane Season is upon us. Please review the Emergency Procurement Manual posted on JeffConnect employee intranet portal. The Purchasing Department has a network drive of all Pre-Placed Emergency Contracts. Should anyone in your department require access to this drive during a storm, be sure to contact the Electronic Information Systems Department for access.

Congratulations to the Service Award Pin Recipients:

Misty Camardelle, Assistant Director – 10 years
Mark Buttery, Buyer I – 10 years
Doris Abraham, Buyer I – 5 years

Employee of the Year

The Purchasing Department would like to recognize **Rae Lynn Hartman** as its Employee of the Year. Rae Lynn has served as a Buyer I in the Purchasing Department since 2019. We thank Rae Lynn for her commitment to the Parish and the contributions that



Employee of the Year Rae Lynn Hartman with Director Renny Simno

she has made to advance the mission of the Purchasing Department

Specification Writing and State Contract Training

SELA NIGP (Southeast Louisiana Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing) will be hosting a virtual training presented by the Office of State Procurement on July 16. Topics presented during this virtual training course will provide participants a better understanding of the importance of clear specifications, writing specifications, statewide contracts, and how to use the Louisiana Electronic Catalog (LA eCat).

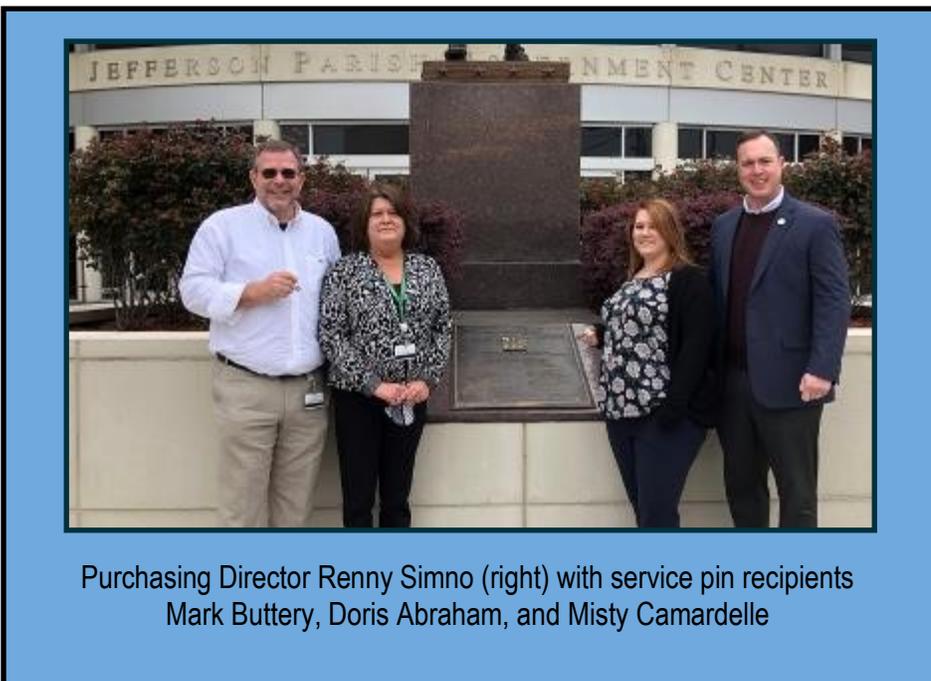
Training is not only for Procurement employees. Anyone that uses statewide contracts or writes specifications for their department will benefit from this training. Registration is open to members and non-members at www.selanigp.org. If you have any questions, please contact SELA Chapter President, **Melissa Ovale**: MOvale@jeffparish.net or 504.364.2687.

The cost for this training for non-members is \$30.00. This event is free for SELA NIGP members.

Did you know?

If you submit a bid request for labor over \$1,000.00, Jefferson Parish requires insurance from the vendor. You can help expedite your request by letting the vendor know that the final Certificate of Insurance is required before the Purchase Order can be created. The Standard Insurance Requirements are available at <https://www.jeffparish.net/departments/purchasing/forms>.

The Auto Insurance Declaration Affidavit and Worker's Compensation Insurance Declaration Affidavit can also be found at this link. These affidavits should be utilized by vendors who are not required to carry Worker's Compensation or Auto Liability.



Purchasing Director Renny Simno (right) with service pin recipients Mark Buttery, Doris Abraham, and Misty Camardelle

PMZ
By
Rebecca Daisy

On March 29 Data Entry Operator II **Meiling Liu** joined our department. Welcome aboard, Meiling!

PMZ Inspector I **Elwinetta “Netta” Dauphin**, received her 5-year pin from PMZ Director **Catherine Toppel** on April 16. Congratulations, Netta!!

Administrative Assistant **Jamise Harvey** was presented with her Employee of the Year award on May 20, 2021. Congratulations, Jamise!!!



PMZ's Employee of the Year
Jamise Harvey

And lastly, with bittersweet well wishes, we say *Bon Voyage!* To PMZ Director **Catherine Toppel**. We wish you all the luck and happiness the future surely holds for you.



Catherine Toppel

General Services
By
Mary Ann Adorno

SERVICE PINS:

Congratulations to the following employees for their service with Jefferson Parish:

10 Years:

**Kylie Propps,
Eric J. Romain,
Alex Thompson**

5 Years:

**Kraig A. Kennedy
Thomas P. Lawson
Langdon Mickens
Michael E. Tilquit,
Larry Webb**

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

Congratulations! Employee of the Year!

The staff of General Services would like to send a well-deserved congratulations to our Electrician Supervisor **Langdon Mickens**, who received his em-

ployee of the Year award from Assistant Director Ryan Babcock. Thank you Langdon, for a job well done!

Happy Retirement!!

Hello all! I find it not only fitting but necessary to honor a very special man on his retirement. Congratulations to our Director **Anthony L. Francis**, who retired April 2 after “36” years of Service to Jefferson Parish.

I consider it such an honor to have worked with Anthony, who truly is an inspiration and guide to many that worked and passed through the Department of General Services.

We wish Anthony much happiness as he begins a new chapter in his life. We love you and we will miss you!!

Pictured below is Anthony receiving a proclamation at the March 31 council meeting from Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng and the Jefferson Parish Council Members along with his beautiful family!



Outgoing General Services Director Anthony Francis is honored upon his retirement

JeffCAP

By

Ann Bridges and Yvonne Dumas

Welcome Aboard!

Brian Bigard Jr., Joseph Cannatella, Cassandra Davis, Shanetta Drake-Pruitt, Nelson Duplessis, Megan Hunter, Ayesha Johnson, Tammy Lawson, Jerica Martin, Melanie McDowell, NaShaunta Robinson, and Chardia Stancliff. We are very happy to have you aboard.

Retirement:

Please join us in extending best wishes to **Sylvia Duplessis**, who retired from Bridge City Community Center as a Community Service Counselor with over 33 years of service; **Darlene Leonard**, who retired from Jutland Head Start on June 4 as a Registered Nurse with 10 years of service; and **Valerie Knapper**, who retired from Terrytown Head Start on June 4 as a License Practitioner Nurse with 15 years of service.

Outstanding Job:

Head Start teachers **Mrs. Karen Saul** and **Ms. Stephanie James** at Waggaman Head Start had a discussion with the children concerning the coronavirus, and the importance of proper hand-washing. They explained what preventive measures we are to take to stop germs from spreading to our family and friends.

When children come into contact with germs, they can become infected just by touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. Washing hands can prevent the spread of germs or bacteria and viruses that cause diseases. The teachers filled a bowl with water and sprinkled black pepper in it. The black pepper represented germs. The children dipped their finger into the bowl and noticed they had several specks of black pepper on

their finger. Mrs. Karen explained that without soap on your finger the germs don't move at all.

Next, the teachers had the children dip their finger in dish soap making sure it was fully submerged. Finally, they dipped their soap-covered finger back into the bowl with pepper and water. The black pepper immediately moved away from their finger. This demonstration mimics how germs are removed from their hands with soap.



Congratulations:

Congratulations to our December 2019 through May 2021 Education Staff who have received their credentials and degrees.

The following staff have earned their CDA's:

**Ashley Brown
Johanna Buckley
Tyche Crockett
Rashawn Degruy
Carmen Jackson
Wendy Trosclair**

The following have earned their Associate Degree's:

**Shantell Brown
Dionka Williams**

The following have earned

their Bachelors Degrees':

**Erin Albanese
Angela Coleman
Ashley Lemieux**

Promotions:

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions: **Johanna Buckley** – Early Head Start Teacher, Beechgrove HS, **Aleisha Comeaux** -Teacher Assistant, Jutland HS, **Andrea Gant** -Teacher Advisor, Terrytown HS, **Louwan Jackson** -Teacher, Terrytown HS, and **Magnolia Muriel** -Cook II, Causeway HS.

Head Start Registration:

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year began in May. Registration was held at the local Community Centers within the parish. Remember, registration is an ongoing process. Anyone interested in Pre-K must first apply at Jeffersonchild.com, complete the application, and choose the school you're interested in. Then contact your neighborhood Head Start to speak with the Family Service Specialist to complete an application.

RSVP Program:

In place of the annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, where we recognize the community volunteer efforts of program participants, the Jefferson Parish Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (JeffCAP) held a drive-thru volunteer recognition event to acknowledge the over 300 volunteers participating in the program. The event was held on April 1 at Lafreniere Park. The location and setup allowed nearly 200 of our volunteers to safely collect gift bags in honor of their year-round work in the community at various locations throughout Jefferson Parish. Jefferson Parish RSVP provided volunteers with gift bags containing RSVP face masks, hand sanitizer, tumblers, as well as personalized "Thank You"

cards highlighting their service during the beginning of the pandemic. To ensure a completely contactless volunteer recognition and to follow all safety protocols, RSVP volunteers were called and given a specific time to arrive, ensuring that the park was not overcrowded. JeffCAP staff, volunteers, and interns checked in drivers as they arrived, handed out gift bags, provided RSVP volunteers with plated lunches, and cheered them on as they exited the park.

Mass Feed Initiative:

Jefferson Parish began providing meals to seniors and those most vulnerable to COVID-19 on Monday, February 22, 2021, through a cost-sharing collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). Jefferson Community Action Programs administered the COVID-19 Meal Assistance Program and qualified residents to ensure constituents received this invaluable service. Jefferson Parish in collaboration with Councilman Bonano (District 2), and JeffCAP provided 91,700 meals to 2,352 seniors impacted by COVID-19. Participants received a single balanced meal, which included healthy snacks for 30 consecutive days. These meals were delivered via contactless home deliveries.

Service Pins. 15 years:

- Juanita Cole** and **Niya Powell**, Causeway Head Start
- Tenita Chambliss** and **Yvonne Gardet**, Lapalco Head Start
- Carlette Walker**, Kenner Head Start
- Valerie Knapper** and **Dionka Williams**, Terrytown Head Start

We would like to THANK all employees for their tireless years of service to JeffCAP.

Parks & Recreation

By
Brianna Duronslet

Little Farms Parking Lot Ribbon Cutting

Councilman District 2 and the Recreation Department celebrated the completion and beautification upgrades to Little Farms Playground. The ribbon-cutting ceremony held on March 11 unveiled the \$204,227.73 project, consisting of the parking lot with 24 parking spaces, including ADA accessible spots and drainage with a five-foot-wide sidewalk, LED lighting, a seven-foot cedar fence, and planted flowers.

The new parking lot provides parking closer to the facilities and keeps cars from parking down the street. Councilman Deano Bonano stated, “I know how much of a pain it was to try to park to play against Little Farms- hauling baseballs and bats three to four blocks away.” The new parking lot allows visitors to park closer to the building and keeps visitors from trekking blocks to reach the playground.

Branching out in Athletics

Parks and Recreation is branching out to showcase extraordinary youth talent in Jef-

erson Parish. The JPRD Athletics Division sent two teams to compete for the Louisiana State Open Cup, and the Department’s Leisure Services Division will have two swim teams--one on the Eastbank and one on the Westbank--compete around Jefferson Parish this summer.

Soccer

Two All-Star teams competed in the Louisiana State Open Cup Soccer Championship in Baton Rouge April 24-25. The 11-12-year-old girls soccer team competed against the Lafourche Legacy soccer team. The JPRD team fell short of the victory in the Lamar Hunt Open Cup. The boy’s team took home the 2021 Lamar Hunt State Champions title, bringing the win to Jefferson Parish. “Congratulations to the entire JPRD Soccer community on their recent success in the Louisiana State Cup. The commitment from our players and coaches has taken our program to new heights,” said **Tim Collins**, Recreation Administrator-Athletics.

Swimming

The JPRD swim team is the first in Jefferson Parish Recreation and will compete this summer against other local swim teams



JPRD Girls Soccer Team after the State Cup

and try to gain a spot at the end-of-season event The Meet of Champs. The swim team will consist of children ages 6-17 years old and will service Eastbank and Westbank residents with Eastbank participants training at the EJ YMCA and Westbank participants training at Johnny Jacobs pool. JPRD is excited to see more young talent showcased in Jefferson Parish.

Employee of the Year Banquet

Director **Mario Bazile** celebrated outstanding employees at the Employee of the Year Banquet on April 16. Employees from all divisions of the Recreation Department, including Athletics, Administration, Maintenance, and Leisure Services, were recommended for nomination by their supervisor as being extraordinary employees and beautiful examples of excellence in the Department.

The ten nominees for the award were: **Brad Roth, Chris Villarrubia, Antoinette Holmes, Victoria Gusler, William Comeaux, Roy Blum, Anthony Richard, Sammie McGowan, Kyle Beske, and Tiffany Joseph.** The nominees celebrated their achievements at the Chateau Golf and Country Club with a lunch with the Director and Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng. The Employee of the year award went to **Antoinette Holmes**, Executive Assistant.

Employee of the Year Spotlight

Executive Assistant **Antoinette Holmes** secures the win as the Department's Employee of the Year. Holmes, a six-year departmental employee, stands out as an essential asset to JPRD. Holmes does not work in isolation; she assists every division, including Athletics, Leisure Services, Maintenance, Facilities, and Capital Projects. Antoinette gives the



Recreation's Employee of the Year Antoinette Holmes

secret to becoming a better employee. She advises all employees to "be willing to step out of [their] comfort zone to expand and interact with different people and ideas because [people are] bringing new ideas to the table that we have to be open to."

Antoinette would like to see each employee continue to strive to mesh together. "I think if we start looking at ideas that are different from our own, treating ideas as not better or worse, but different- that's how we open ourselves to knowledge and a new experience," said Holmes.

Welcome Back to the Golden Age Program

The calm is finally settling in after the storm of the Covid

-19 pandemic. Recreation continued to provide services to the public amidst the global pandemic with modifications and precautions. Although it seemed the department had everything up and running, one section of the Department's Leisure Service Division was not allowed to continue.

The Golden Age program, a social club for adults 50 years and older, was suspended due to the high risk of the Covid-19 virus. Now JPRD is welcoming back its members. On Friday, April 23, the Westbank Golden Agers had a Welcome Back celebration to kick off the program's revival. The Eastbank had their kickoff a week later, on April 30. "Golden Age is pretty much back to normal other than [wearing] masks, [social] distancing and temperature checks," said Rebecca Bourgeois, Recreation Administrator-Leisure Services. The Department is ecstatic to have its final program running to provide seniors opportunities for recreation right in time for the summer.



Welcome Back Golden Age Event

Come Back to Owens Event

A brand-new vision arose like a phoenix from the ashes after



Pamela Watson, Brianna Duronslet, Councilman Byron Lee, and Recreation Director Mario Bazile at the Come Back to Owens event.

monthly meetings with River Ridge community members. JPRD, in conjunction with Council District 3 Byron Lee's Office, hosted an event for the community in the Owens Playground District after hearing and addressing concerns surrounding the playground. The participation at Jesse Owens Playground has been declining, leaving the playground underutilized and without programs for residents.

JPRD identified issues with the playground and sought to restore a new fire for the playground to have a rebirth. The Come Back to Owens event showcased the efforts created and in place for the gym to soar. Sev-

eral community organizations stepped up to ignite the flames of continued progress. The community organizations include Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Acadian Ambulance, Jefferson Parish Public Library, Hancock Whitney Bank, Blue Runner Foods, Inc., Audubon Nature Institute, Stratus Building Solutions, Jefferson Parish Diversity and Inclusion Board, Raising Canes, McAlister's Deli, Custom Apparel, and Open Door Travel Agency.

Residents signed up for summer camp, athletic programs, and a new dance class at the playground. The event marked the awakening of a new era for Jesse Owens Playground and paved the way for the community to set its district ablaze with fantastic innovation.

Westminster Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Jefferson Parish Parks and Recreation Department, along with Councilman Byron Lee, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, April 30, to celebrate the new community amenity at Westminster Park located at 7426 Rue Louis Philippe St., in Marrero.

The project turned excess space into an outdoor fitness

station designed to use body weight as resistance in replacing traditional weights. The machines are lined with QR codes to showcase how each device is used to maximize workouts and ensure correct usage of the equipment and muscles.

JPRD employee recognition

Jefferson Parish has recognized Parks and Recreation staff several times for their help coordinating and setting up the mass vaccination site at the Shrine on Airline. Members of the Recreation Department that assisted include **Ethan Landry, Anthony Corpora, James Berne, Tiger Jones, Robert Pistorius, Ramon Jackson, Derek Phillip, James Behne, and David Swilly.**

Service Pin Recipients

15 Years of Service

**Jerome Johnson
Melvin McElwee
Bridgette Windsor**

New Hires

Christopher Dillard, Dylan Manale, Cory Woodwin, Robert Riordan

Promotions

Jessica Laurendine- Assistant Recreation Center Supervisor
Timothy Collins- Recreation Administrator- Athletics
Rebecca Bourgeois- Recreation Administrator- Leisure Services
Ethan Landry- Recreation Administrator- Maintenance
Gary Schmidt- Programs Operations Manager-Maintenance & Capital Projects
Demi Williams- Assistant Recreation Center Supervisor
Joe Winn- Recreation Zone Manager-Facilities
David Fray- Park Superintendent
Jacob Cherry- Area Coordinator -Leisure Services



JPRD staff helped at the Shrine on Airline for Covid vaccines

Drainage

By
Sheena Quinn

Welcome & Congratulations!

As Summer begins, the Department of Drainage continues to expand with the addition of new employees: **Amy “Kelly” Clouatre**, Typist Clerk II; **Darrell Rhea**, Laborer; **Vernon Johnson**, Truck Driver II; **Roosevelt Collins III**, Laborer; **Dorreon Lewis**, Laborer; and **Derrek Tassin**, Laborer, are our newest faces joining the Department of Drainage. Also, we are very pleased to announce several promotions within our department:

Paul Eymard has been promoted from Pump Station Operator II to Drainage Maintenance Foreman-Pump Stations with Pump Station Maintenance.

Lewis Cotton has been promoted from Laborer Semi-Skilled Lead Worker to Foreman I with East Bank Drainage.

Steven Hill has been promoted from Trades Helper to Truck Driver I with East Bank Drainage.

Tyrrell Molette has been promoted from Trades Helper to Truck Driver I with East Bank Drainage.

Troy Hobbs has been promoted from Equipment Operator III to Equipment Operator IV with West Bank Drainage.



Latrenda Williams

Chad Mangosing has been promoted from Pump Station Operator I to Pump Station Operator II with East Bank Pump Stations.

Damian Dent has been promoted from Drainage Maintenance Superintendent I to Drainage Maintenance Superintendent II with West Bank Drainage.

Latasha Smith has been promoted from Typist Clerk III and joined us here at Drainage in the position of Administrative Assistant.

Latrenda Williams has been promoted from Typist Clerk III to Administrative Assistant.

Sheena Quinn has been promoted from Administrative Assistant to Public Works Business Manager, Assistant.

Service Pin Superstars

The department awarded service pins to employees that have been with us for 5, 10, and 15 years. The following dedicated employees received service pins for 10 years: **Bryan Carriere**, **Steven Simmons**, **Nikiya Sullen**, **Elaine Washington**, and **James Wing**.

15 years: **Joseph Burse III**, **Gregory Foster**, **Yvette Hurst**, **James Leblanc**, **Errol Moliere**, **Dong Pham**, **Hoang Pham**, **Micah Polius**, **Rosavelt Price**, and **Charles Singleton**. We would like to thank you for your hard work thus far and look forward to seeing what you all will accomplish in the future.

Employee of the Year

We would like to announce that this year’s Employee of the Year for Drainage has been presented to **Adam Mataya**. Mr. Mataya has been an employee with our department since 2010. Adam, a Pump Station Resident Operator II, has shown exemplary dedication in all that he does. He goes above and beyond the call of duty and we’re so lucky



Director Mitch Theriot congratulates Drainage’s employee of the year Adam Mataya

to have him as part of our team. Congrats, Adam!

As Hurricane Season approaches, be sure to pay special attention to your catch basins and make sure they are clear of any debris. The smallest things will make the biggest impact!



Latasha Smith



TechConnect

Information Technology News

Tech News

With -Buddy B.

Time for another installment of the EIS News page! Here, I'll try to keep you up to date on IT, GIS, and Telecom happenings, as well as important information about the Jeff Parish Tech world and how it may benefit you.

What's new here in the IT Department?



Congratulations to **Heather Glass!** Heather has completed her graduate studies, earning her Master of Public Administration, with a concentration in Hazard Policy.

With her degree comes a new position: Emergency Management Coordinator II with the Emergency Management Department. All of us will miss her and hope she enjoys her adventures!

Brandy Verdin, is with us now. Brandy joined our team in the heat of the COVID-19 ramp-up. So now I can finally welcome and mention that she has been a strong part of the team that keeps your IT going.



We welcome **Diane Guichard** to our team. Diane has already taken the bull by the horns in our telecommunications and order tracking procedures. She is doing an outstanding job.



John Dinh is on his way... Up wards! John was recently promoted to Computer Network Specialist. Congratulations, John! Good luck in your new position!



What's new in IT!

New Cybersecurity Training

Although not new for Parish employees, last summer Louisiana passed a law requiring all public employees to complete annual cybersecurity training. This year's State-sponsored course will be released soon. You'll have three weeks to complete the required training.

Speeding up the network

Improved Bandwidth using SD-WAN technology is coming to remote offices this summer. Thanks to new technology and less expensive bandwidth, we are enhancing our connections at remote facilities like the Rheem Building, LA-18, and several other offices this summer and more throughout the rest of the year!

Self Help is here!

Sort of, well, a little. Ok, it's a work in progress— it's an intranet web page that you can use to learn new IT things, troubleshoot IT issues, and pick up tips and tricks to make technology easier and more productive. Give it a test drive now at:

<http://jpnet/TechKnow/>

Keep checking back for updates and new things to learn.



"U" drive moving to the Cloud

Thanks to our Microsoft Office 365 license, we can now store our user files (U-drive files) on Microsoft's OneDrive. This will make your "U-drive" files available to you even when you're not in the office and don't have access to the VPN. If you need assistance locating your files on OneDrive after your "U" drive has gone away, just call 736-6720 and we'll help. Look for an email from IT to let you know.

Hotkey Corner

By Heather Glass

Have you ever completely lost a window you were working in? Maybe you dragged it off the side of your monitor and you can't figure out how to move it back? Today's HotKey will help you find your missing windows and return them into view!

Using your WIN key and the left arrow → will move the active window to the left side of your screen, and the right arrow ← with your Windows key moves your active window to the right side. To use this to find a missing program window, select it from the taskbar, and use the WIN → or WIN ← to force the window over... and voilà!



Water

By
Lakeisha Joseph

Welcome to Team Water!

Welcome

The Water Department would like to welcome the following new employees: **Perriel Benoit** - Utility Billing Clerk I; **Deronte Conway** – Laborer; **Malissa Carter**– Water Service Inspector I– Meter; **Lorraine Caruso** – Utility Billing Clerk I; **Angie Ditcharo** - Utility Billing Collector I; **Kolby Barthelemy** – Laborer; and **Ronald Jackson** – Laborer.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following employee on his recent promotion: **Osai Bailey** to a Waterline Maintenance Sup. I.

Employee of the Year!

The Water Team would like to congratulate Public Works Business Manager Assistant **Alecia Washington**, who received the Employee of the Year Award from Water department Director Sidney J. Bazley III. Congratulations, Alecia, and thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Team water wishes you all well and continue to stay safe!



Alecia Washington receives Water's Employee of the Year Award from Director Sidney J. Bazley III.

Engineering

By
Helen McGee

Welcome: Accountant III **Bin Zhang**. Bin comes to us by way of JeffCAP. Welcome aboard.

Farewell and Best of Luck to Secretary **Kimberly Johnson**, who accepted a position with Streets. She will be missed.



Kim Johnson

Congratulations to Accountant III **William “Barry” Sims**. Barry was selected as Employee of the Year, for doing an outstanding job and service to Jefferson Parish Government. Hooray, Barry!! Well Deserved.



Director Angela DeSoto with William “Barry” Sims

Congratulations to **Jun Chen**, who was recently promoted to Engineering Inspector III SP3.

Director **Angela DeSoto** recently presented several employees their five-year pins: **Matthew Palermo**, Drafting; **Taylor Besson**, Westbank Inspection; **Angelo Sammartino** and **Shelitia Thompson** of our Warehouse Division. Congratulations! Cheers too many more.

Be the reason someone smiles today! Spread some cheer!

Human Resources

By
Greg Alexander

The Department of Human Resource Management is happy to announce the addition of two new professionals to our staff:

Angerean “Angie” Taylor is our new Human Resource Manager. She comes to us from Personnel, where she was a Recruitment Technician. She has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and is working on her master’s in Leadership and Human Development.



Angie Taylor

Previously a training specialist with Jefferson Parish Library and a former employee of the Louisiana Board of Ethics, **Nordette Adams** is our new Training Specialist. Nordette holds two master’s degrees from UNO: an M.F.A. in Creative Writing and an M.A. in English.



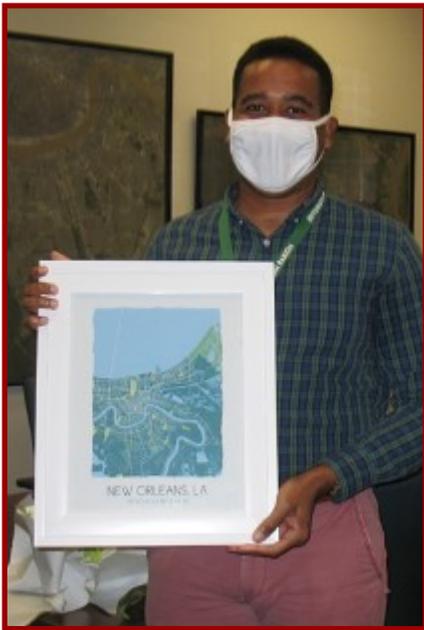
Nordette Adams

Planning

By
Nedra McKinney

BEST WISHES

Congratulations and Best Wishes to **Ryan-Paul Johnson**. Ryan-Paul was our student intern from the University of New Orleans who just received his Master's Degree in Urban Regional Planning. Ryan worked in our Long-Range Division as a Planner II and will be greatly missed.



Ryan-Paul Johnson



Joseph Fraker and Alex Nassar

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to Planner III **Monica Kelley** and Planner II **Michele Enright**, both in Current Planning Westbank Division, and Planner II **Alena Gesser** in our Long-Range Division for completing five years of service with the Parish. Keep up the good work!

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Planner II **Alena Gesser** in our Long-Range Division who has also worked in our Current Planning

Eastbank Division as well as a Planner II. Alena is our department's Employee of the Year for her outstanding service and dedication. Way to go, Alena!

WELCOME

Welcome Aboard, **Alex Nassar** and **Joseph Fraker**. Both Alex and Joseph started their new journey with us in May of this year as a Planner II. Alex is in our Current Planning Eastbank Division and Joseph is in our Long-Range Division.



Monica Kelley, Alena Gesser, Director Juliette Cassagne, and Michele Enright

Lafreniere Park

By
Tripp Rabalais

New Hire

We would like to welcome **John Paul Braswell** to the Lafreniere family. John Paul joined us in March as our new Lafreniere Park Maintenance Supervisor.



John Paul Braswell

Cinco de Mayo!

The first Annual Cinco de Mayo House Fest was hosted by Tacos del Cartel. The celebration included freshly prepared tacos and refreshments, along with local entertainment.

There were classes for preparing Margaritas, tequila, and



mezcal. Two local DJs led into the Bag of Donuts performance on the Al Copeland Meadow Stage. A great time was had by all, and the weather even cleared up so the night was wonderful.

New Lights!

Lafreniere Park replaced all of the North and South Mall Parking lights with new LED fixtures. These lights have greatly increased the visibility in these lots at night. Additionally, the lights along the Downs Boulevard street have been updated with the same LED fixtures, increasing the light value along the entrance to the Park.



Streets

By
Kenya Johnson

Hurricane Season is approaching, and Streets will continue to maintain the streets and drains to keep them clear of debris. We thank all of our Streets workers.

Welcome

We extend a big welcome to our new employees. Semi-skilled Laborers: **Melvin Winfield, Emile Williams, Malcolm Harris and Arthur Lamonte**; Laborers: **Charles Banister and Raymond Overstreet**; *Truck Driver II*: **Luke Martin**. We hope all of you enjoy working with us and will be with us for many years to come.

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Executive Superintendent **Maria Cooper**, our Employee of the Year. Maria shows tremendous dedication and hard work and is truly deserving of this award.



Maria Cooper

Promotions

Congratulations to **Suzette Hall and Tyrone Dukes**, who were promoted to Road Maintenance Foremen. We would like to wish them good luck.

Retirement

Congrats to **Hope Zamora** with Eastbank Streets. She retired on March 23 with over 30 years of service. You will be missed, Hope. We hope you enjoy your retirement.

Emergency Management

By
Dorina Gauthreaux

Hurricane Season!

It officially begins on June 1 and ends on November 30. Meteorologists are predicting another active season, so make sure to have a plan in place. The hurricane names for this year are as follows: *Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Elsa, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Julian, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, and Wanda.*

We held our annual public assisted evacuation exercise at Delgado's Metairie campus on April 27. On May 18 and 20 we held our annual activation trainings to prepare for hurricane season. These exercises help us to be prepared for different scenarios that can happen during a hurricane.

Staff News

Emergency Management would like to welcome two new employees: Emergency Management Coordinators II **Jay Dugas** and **Heather Glass**. Heather comes to us from EIS. We know they will be great additions to our team.

Also, Administrative Assistant (and Ace Reporter!) **Dorina Gauthreaux** celebrated ten years with Jefferson Parish.

Manning the Phones!

Our Phone Operators, **Bianca Acero** and **Sydney Santa Ana**, have been doing some community outreach in Jefferson Parish. These community outreach projects have been used to inform residents about the vaccination events that are



Dorina Gauthreaux

taking place in their area. Informing the community through outreach definitely has made a difference, especially for those who do not have access to technology or the media.

Our phone operators have also been assisting with the Homebound Vaccination Program to make the vaccine accessible to those who are not able to leave their homes. They are additionally assisting

with our Special Needs Assisted Evacuation Program, ensuring that everyone who needs assistance with evacuation during hurricane season is registered.



Heather Glass

Employee of the Year!

We would like to congratulate Coordinator II **Dustin Guidroz** on getting the 2020-2021 Employee of the Year award! He always goes above and beyond. Congrats, Dustin, for doing an outstanding job this year!



Emergency Management's Employee of the Year Dustin Guidroz is congratulated by Director Joe Valiente

Sewerage
By
Venice Cooper

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Fran Trapani**, our 2021 Employee of the Year. Fran has been with us for six years. She manages sewer complaints from residents on the East Bank. She is tremendously helpful, friendly, and professional. Fran has great customer service skills and always has a positive attitude.

She goes above and beyond every day for the citizens of Jefferson Parish, putting them at ease with the assurance that their sewer problems will be investigated. Fran has volunteered to work at the Senior Citizens Expo, the Public Works Dispatch Office, and as an essential duty worker at the Emergency Operations Center. We commend and thank Fran for her hard work and dedication.

CONTRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions:
Kendall Adams, Lift Station Inspector, Westbank Lift Stations
Willie Chinn, Pump Mechanic,
Shane Dickerson, General Superintendent, Lift Stations
Corey Kaigler, Truck Driver II
Jackie Payne, Jr., Maintenance Superintendent
Nicholas Ramsak, Operator Class

II, Marrero Plant
Denny Rapp, Operator
Louis Reed, Pump Mechanic
Kailumnn Reynolds, Operator Class IV, Bridge City Plant
Erron Robinson, Pump Mechanic, Eastbank Lift Stations
Joe Smith, Lift Station Inspector
Matthew Solares, Operator Class IV, Marrero Plant
Christopher Thompson, Equipment Operator I
David Toups, Superintendent II

SERVICE PIN AWARDS

Congratulations to the following employees who will receive their Service Pin Awards in 2021:

15 YEARS:
Christopher Forster, **Clarence Jackson, Jr.**, and **Joe Smith**

10 YEARS:
Russell Grabert, III, **Jeremy Henry**, **Van Hughes**, **Aaron L. Lewis**, **Michael A. Rogers, Jr.**, **Carlos Ruperti**, **Matthew Solares**, and **Aaron B. Whitney**

WELCOME

Welcome to the following newly hired employees:
Demarco Martin, Jr. – Laborer, Eastbank Lines
Joseph Pittman – Trades Helper, Eastbank Lift Stations

Environmental
By
Kathy Russo

We would like to welcome our new Environmental Quality Technician, **Peyton Aubin**. Peyton is a graduate of LSU who had been working in Florida prior to coming home to work for the Parish. We wish him success in his career.

Congratulations to our Secretary, **Barbara Kollin**, on receiving her 15-year service pin. Barbara is a valuable asset to the department.

Employee of the Year

We also would like to congratulate our Employee of the Year, **Diane Coughlin Procchi**, our Stormwater Environmental Quality Specialist. Diane is an invaluable employee with our Stormwater Division. Keep up the good work.

On April 16 and 30, **Sami Khalil**, Stormwater Program Supervisor, participated in the Supervisor Safety Training in the Workplace class. Sami focused on how supervisors should maintain Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention to create a safe working environment for their employees while protecting the environment.

Leadership Awards

At the May 19 Council meeting, the Stormwater Division honored its first ever Stormwater Leadership Award recipients. The Stormwater Leadership Award is intended to recognize those individuals, businesses, or organizations that strive for environmental leadership through programs and actions that improve storm water quality and/or quantity thereby reducing the amount of pollution that enters Jefferson Parish waterways. This year's winners are: Pollution Prevention/Innovation



Fran Trapani reacts to being named Sewerage's Employee of the Year; Director Mike Lockwood presents the award, Assistant Director Brett Todd provides support



Environmental's Employee of the Year Diane Coughlin Procchi with Sami Khalil and Director Blake Vincent

Winner – Mayor Belinda Constant, City of Gretna; Public Education/Outreach – Dana Brown & Associates, Bayou Metairie Park; Overall Winner – New Orleans Stormwater Training Corps – Ryan Mattingly. Congratulations to our winners and our panel of judges.

Sewer Science Project

Also, at the May 19 Council meeting, the Stormwater Division recognized two teachers who performed the Sewer Science Project with their students this year. The Sewer Science project is a week-long experiment designed to showcase the process of how the Parish cleans and treats our sewerage water. The program uses a

scientific approach in an effort to increase awareness about water pollution and its impact on the environment. Teachers review the program and provide hands-on demonstration with the Sewer Science equipment. This year's teacher winners are Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy, Rebekah Kraus, and Academy of Our Lady, Sr. Janna San Juan.

Contest Results!

Last but not least, the May 19 Council meeting saw the Stormwater Division congratulate the winners of the 2020-2021 *Non – Point Source Pollution and Solution Poster/Essay Contest winners*. Certificates were awarded

to the first, second, and third place winners in the poster and essay categories. This year's poster winners are from John Curtis Christian Elementary School, and this year's essay winners are from St. Christopher School.

The *Non-point Source Storm Water Pollution and Solutions* poster and essay contest, hosted by the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs, was developed to raise public awareness of non-point source pollution, such as leakage of automotive fluids, fertilizers and pesticides, pet wastes, green waste, construction run-off, etc. The annual contest is open to all Jefferson Parish students in grades 3 through 8. The 3rd through 6th graders submitted posters, and the 7th and 8th graders submitted essays. The students depicted or described at least one source of non-point source pollution and presented potential solutions.

Stormwater Sweep

Our Stormwater Division, along with Ecosystem and Coastal Management, participated in the Pontchartrain Conservancy's Storm Sweep in Metairie on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Our employees worked alongside other volunteers and Parish employees picking up trash around the business section of Clearview and Veterans Memorial Blvd. and marking storm drains with our bilingual educational markers.

Stormwater Conference

Our Stormwater Division has been helping to organize this year's 23rd Annual EPA Region 6 Stormwater Conference to be held at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans on August 8 – 12, 2021. This year's theme is *Weathering the Storm: Resiliency & Protection through Design*.



Barbara Kollin observes 15 years of service

Shredding, Anyone?

Do you have any documents lying around your house that contain personal information and need shredding?

The Department of Environmental Affairs, in partnership with Iron Mountain, will host a paper shredding event on Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The event will take place in the parking lot of the Yenni Building. This is an opportunity for Jefferson Parish residents to responsibly dispose of sensitive paper documents quickly, easily, and securely. Canceled checks, medical records, credit card information, utility bills, old tax returns and pay stubs are among the many items that can be destroyed by shredding.

These services are offered at no charge to Jefferson Parish residents. Residents are limited to five boxes of paper per vehicle. Each box should not exceed the size of a standard banker box (24 x 15 x 10'). Materials from businesses cannot be accepted. Due to COVID-19, this will be a self-service event. Residents will have to unload the paper from the vehicle themselves and bring it to the shredding operator. Paper may contain small paper clips or staples.

The following is not accepting for shredding:

- 3 ring binders
- Metal objects (large paper clips, binder clips, etc.)
- Plastic objects
- Cloth objects
- Household Hazardous Waste of any kind

The event will run until the scheduled time, or until the shred truck reaches capacity. If severe weather occurs during the event, material cannot be accepted and the event may end early due to safety concerns

Diversity & Inclusion

By
Irene Lunkin



**JEFFERSON PARISH
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BOARD**

This past March the DIB celebrated Irish/Italian Heritage Month with a celebration at the Yenni Building that included Archbishop Rummel High School’s Raider Band and the Archbishop Chapelle High School Band and Chapellette Dance Team. Historian Angelo Schiro, with the Irish-Italian organization, gave a history of the organization. We were also entertained by Vocalist Joe Tortorich singing *That’s Amore* and a dance performance from the Ryan School of Irish Dance (New Orleans).

At our April meeting we installed and welcomed the following Parish employees to the DIB: **Brianna Duronslet** (Parks and Recreation), **Donna Evans** (Purchasing), **Heather Glass** (Emergency Management), **Deon Green** (Research & Budget), **Brent Herrmann** (General Services), and **Terri Pajares**

(Parish Attorney’s Office).

Also in April Parish President Sheng, accompanied by DIB members CAA **Dr. Zimmerman** and our Chair **Aleen Bernard**, acknowledged Autism Awareness month by visiting Hazel Park Elementary in Harahan. They distributed snowflakes to students that symbolized how beautiful they were and did an activity that represented diversity and the differences between the students.

May is Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate and pay tribute to the contributions Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to American history, society, and culture. On May 28, our DIB acknowledged and celebrated Asian Pacific Islander Heritage month with an event at the General Government Building that included a special performance by the Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team.

One of the DIB’s goal is to become more involved in the community by participating in community events and representing JP DIB. Some of those events included Recreation’s “Come Back to Owens” event, the Parish Administration’s Vaccine drives throughout the Parish, and Animal Shelter’s De-Stress Mobile event.



The Ryan School of Irish Dance

Community Development

By
Stephanie Brumfield

Employee of the Year

The Department of Community Development would like to recognize a very special employee. **Anna Williamson** was nominated as our employee of the year. Anna has been a trusted public servant for four years with Jefferson Parish. She began her career in the Personnel Department and received a promotion as an Account Clerk III to work in Community Development.



CD Director Nicole Fontenot
with Anna Williamson

Anna is a mother of a special needs child but with love and support from family and colleagues, she still manages to perform her job duties gracefully. Not only is Anna a mother, she is a student at UNO pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Anna is the example of a great employee who always provides the highest level of service no matter the task. Congratulations. We appreciate all the work you do for Community Development and your community.



Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team of Marrero

Diversity and inclusion are essential in today's workplace to gain knowledge of different lifestyles and cultures, and to help make all employees comfortable in the workplace. Visit us on the Parish's intranet webpage <http://jpnet/home/DeptDiversity>. There you will find a list of the Employee Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board members, calendars, posters, and our quarterly *Diversity Matters* newsletter.

If you are interested in getting involved in this board or want to find out more information, please let your director know and/or con-

tact Aleen Bernard (ABernard@jeffparish.net) with the following subject line "Interested in D&I Board."

The Employee Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board serves as an advisory body on diversity and inclusion issues and acts as a communication link between Parish Leadership and Parish employees. The Board will champion the benefits of diversity through the development, implementation, and support of activities that honor the unique abilities and address the common concerns of employees.



New Team Members

The Department of Community Development would like to welcome new employees to the Department:

- Toby Bishop, Typist Clerk III
- Rayshawna Poole, Housing Improvement Counselor III
- Craig Henry, Administrative Management III

Welcome to the team. We are so excited to have you all.



Typist Clerk III
Toby Bishop



Housing Improvement Counselor III
Rayshawna Poole



Craig Henry

Community Development Week & Fair Housing Month

Did you know that Community Development week was April 5-April 9, 2021 and April is Fair Housing Month? Jefferson Parish Government is a participant in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which funds public infrastructure, economic development, and housing programs in our community. Fair Housing establishes a community where all persons are able to compete for available housing on an open, fair, and equitable basis, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin. During the April council meeting, Parish President Cynthia Lee-Sheng presented a Proclamation for Community Development week as well as for Fair Housing month. Employees of Community Development were honored to receive the proclamations from the Parish President. Great job Community Development!

Floodplain Management

By
Seamus Riley

Cypress Tree Planting

On March 6, 2021, the Departments of Ecosystem and Coastal Management, Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation, and Parkways, joined volunteers from the Law Office of John Redmann who brought additional family and friends to help plant 750 bald cypress trees along the eastern shoreline of Goose Bayou to combat coastal erosion near the north part of The Pen. In addition to educating volunteers about coastal erosion through a hands-on planting field exercise, everyone was transported by boat across the bayou to the Christmas Tree Shoreline Protection Project to learn about the critical values and functions wetlands provide.



Ecosystem's Fernando Saldana and a volunteer install a nutria guard

As part of a hands-on education outreach experience designed to educate students and adults about coastal erosion through means of growing and planting bald cypress trees, the Department of Ecosystem & Coastal Management recently completed the construction of two concrete grow-out pens, which measure 6.5 feet wide and 46.5 feet long. Pond liners were installed inside the structures to better contain and conserve water usage, especially during the

hot summer months. In addition, the Parkways Department was instrumental in having water irrigation systems installed for these pens, as well as making repairs inside the Parkways greenhouse facility. The first batch of trees was transferred from inside the greenhouse to the outside growing pens in March and are currently being monitored for progress.

Storm Sweep Events

In collaboration with the Pontchartrain Conservancy’s Storm Preparedness Month, multiple trash clean-up / storm drain marking events took place.

Harahan

On May 20, Ecosystem & Coastal Management along with Floodplain Management & Hazard Mitigation participated in a clean-up event in Harahan. Numerous trash bags of litter and debris were removed, allowing for the surrounding storm drains to function properly. Storm drain markers, stating that dumping is not only illegal, but



The Jefferson Parish Storm Sweep 2021 Team

detrimental to water quality in receiving basins, will be placed at a later date as weather prevented us from placing them on Thursday. The event was a collaboration between unincorporated Jefferson Parish and the City of Harahan and Gretna.

Jefferson Parish

On May 26, Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation, Ecosystem and Coastal Management, Environmental Affairs, Drainage, Streets, and Parkways joined forces with District 5 and numerous volunteers to remove litter and mark



The Harahan Storm Sweep 2021 Team



Gretna’s Danika Gorrondona and Ecosystem’s Michelle Gonzales mark a storm drain with no dumping signage.

storm drains in Metairie. The event resulted in the removal of 14 bags of litter and debris, the placement of dozens of no-dumping markers, and the clearing of many storm drains.

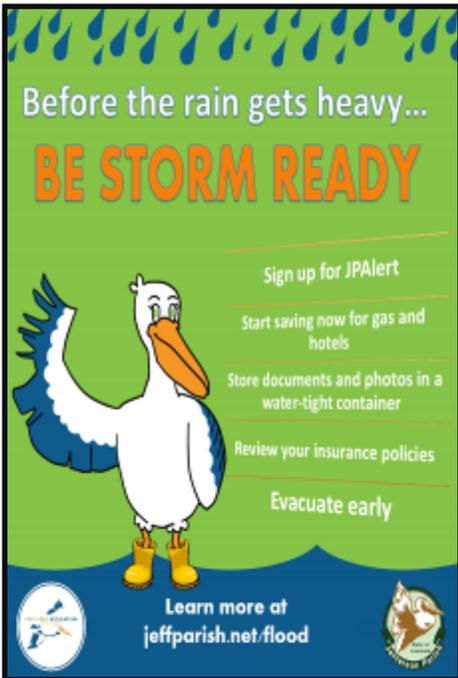
Employee of the Year Awards

Congratulations to **Jason Smith** with Ecosystem and

Coastal Management and **Seamus Riley** with Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation for receiving the Employee of the Year Award for their departments.

Hurricane Season

With Hurricane Season upon us, The Department of Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation would like to encourage everyone to be Storm Ready. Visit www.jeffparish.net/flood to learn more and get prepared!



Library

By
Irene Lunkin

Employee of the Year

Library Associate **Arleen McKay** was selected as the 2020 Library employee of the year. Arleen McKay, a retired Teacher/School Based Administrator for the Jefferson Parish School System, joined the Library staff as a substitute/floater in 1990. She has over 30 years with the Library. Arleen said she feels very honored and humbled by this award and never ever expected it.



Library's employee of the year
Arleen McKay

Over the years, Arleen has demonstrated an outstanding ability to work with all staff; she is always focused on teamwork and willing to put aside personal feelings to maintain a harmonious work environment. She is also willing to work at any branch where she is needed. Coworkers and supervisors consistently praise her for her calm demeanor and knowledge of most any topic. She has a proven record of mentoring new supervisors and coaching them through challenges.

When the Library was shut down during COVID, Ms. McKay demonstrated an unparalleled ability to adapt to the work from home environment. Her documentation of work from home was detailed and well organized. She compiled all of her work logs and certificates of completion into weekly bundles with an index. She was exceedingly understanding of the circumstances and always took a positive approach to the situation.

All staff who have worked with Arleen has noted her willingness to share her knowledge and wisdom of both life and work with them. It is with those characteristics that guided her supervisors to select her as the 2020 Library Employee of the Year. Congratulations Arleen!

New to JPL Stacks

We welcome Live Oak Library Associate **Clayton Constant**, Terrytown Librarian II/Branch Manager **Bethany Lopreste**, and Belle Terre Library Associate **Nicole Ruiz**.



*Employees of the Year:
Ecosystem's Jason Smith and Floodplain's Seamus Riley*



Clayton Constant



Bethany Lopreste

Service Pin Recipients

This spring, we acknowledged employees with 5 and 10 years of service. Those employees received service pins for their years of service. The employees with 10 year of service included: Computer Network Specialist **Asahel Barahona**, Teen Librarian II **Jennifer Bishop**, Truck Driver **Clyde Davis**, Typist Clerk III **Kathleen DeVaughn**, Computer Systems Specialist **Derren Harris**, and Library Associates **Elizabeth Figures**, **Albert Heavener** and **Lucie Shilling**.

The employees with 5 years of service included: Branch Managers **Amber Lewis** and **Daniel Perez**; Foreman II **Thomas Rhody**; Laborer **Anthony Jones**; Librarian IIs **Nancy Burvant** and **Antonio Castro**; Librarian I/Sr. Associate **Christian Gruber**; Library Associates **Michael Borne**, **Eric**

Brown, Patrick Cabading, Carolyn Duplessis, Debra Fleming, Lauren Fontana, Kimberly Francis, Chandra Taylor and Kristen Young; and Maintenance Repairmen **Irvan Conners** and **Elden Russ**.

Promotions

Jessica Gradolf was promoted to Librarian IV, EBR Branch Manager. Jessica’s tenure with JPL began in 2017 when she was hired as a Librarian II in EBR Reference department. She later transferred into a supervisory position as the EBR Circulation Co-Manager and then promoted Librarian III/Branch Manager at the newly renovated Belle Terre Library. Jessica said she is excited about this promotional opportunity and is looking forward to working again with the amazing staff at the East Bank Regional Library.”

Breagh Wirth was recently promoted to Librarian III/Branch Manager at Lakeshore Library. Breagh’s tenure with JPL started in 2013. Her career here began as a Library Associate Floater and then to a permanent position



Breagh Wirth

in EBR Children’s. After receiving her MLIS degree, she was promoted to Librarian II working as a Branch Manager at Westwego Library and then River Ridge Library. In 2019, Breagh transferred back to EBR as Circulation Co-Manager. Breagh said she is excited for the new opportunity.

Once upon a time, both women worked side by side as Circulation Co-Managers at EBR Library (our biggest and busiest location). The experience they received there has prepared them for their new positions. We are confident they will do well in their new positions!

Retirement

Reference Librarian II **Theresa Tucci** retired this March with a little over 17 years of service. Theresa started as a Reference Librarian at West Bank Regional and later transferred to East Bank Regional Library.

Upcoming Events

The Summer Reading Program “Tails and Tales” will run from June 1 through July 31. It is open to all ages. Readers will earn one point every time they read one book, read for one hour or com-



Jessica Gradolf

plete one activity. At five points, children will receive an animal hat and a free kid's meal from Raising Cane's. Teens and adults will be entered into a weekly raffle for a \$25 Amazon gift card. Readers of all ages who earn 50 points will be entered into a grand prize raffle for a \$150 Amazon gift card.

Most programs will remain virtual, but one special animal adoption event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon, Metairie. The Tails and Tales Adoption Event will occur outside the library under the trees near Harvard Avenue. Representatives from the Jefferson Protection and Animal Welfare Services (JPAWS) and the Jefferson Parish SPCA will be onsite with dogs available for adoption. Staff will be on site to promote the SRP and provide "Take and Make" crafts for children and "Make and Leave" crafts for shelter animals.

Our Adult SRP will consist of a special "grab 'n go" workbook consisting of quizzes and puzzle sheets. Quizzes focus on literary themes – Tennessee Williams, Ernest Gaines, Anne Rice, Frances Parkinson Keyes, Kate Chopin, and others. There also are quizzes that pertain to groups that

meet at the library – HAM radio, daylilies, and old garden roses. Plus there are a few quizzes about New Orleans food, the Saints, and even the Golden Girls.

Next Level Goals

We are achieving one of our next level goals of engaging with the community in an effort to encourage residents to get a library card and at the same time informing them of what benefits the card holds. This past May, Teen Librarian **Natalie Juneau** and Library Associate **Rosilynn Bryan** attended the "Come Back to Owens" event to promote the library, sign-up new users, and provide information on upcoming programming events.

Also in May, we provided space in our Live Oak and Westwego libraries for the National Guard to distribute COVID Vaccinations. To top it all off, we are finally on the bus, literally. We finalized our advertisement that is currently on four of the Jefferson Transit buses.

Visit srp.jplibrary.net for more details about our SRP. And stop by your local library to sign up for a library card. It'll allow you access to endless possibilities, the proof is on the website www.jplibrary.net

Safety First

By

Wayne Jones and Peggy Branam

Projects

The Safety Division was successful in completing some major projects that were scheduled for 2021.

Pump Stations

One such project was to inspect and report on all Drainage Pump Stations. This inspection project lasted more than two years. After hurricane season, the cycle of drainage station inspections will begin again. The inspection forms used in performing this work were very effective. Thanks to these inspection forms, omission of items that potentially could contribute to accidents were reduced.

Lift Stations

Similar inspections will soon begin on Sewerage Department Major Lift Stations. The forms used in Drainage Inspections will be adapted to work in the Sewerage Department. As of this time, one inspection has been completed with two more stations scheduled for this month. Minor changes have been made to the drainage inspection forms. This process will continue throughout the year.

Library Inspections

Another accomplishment for this year is the simulated fire drills within the Library Department. The goal was to educate library staff while minimizing the disruption to library patrons. Meetings and demonstrations were held in each library with all staff members. We discussed the entire evacuation plan for each library and personalized with the entire staff. All employees were informed as to what is expected of them and where they should retreat to.



Library advertisement on Jefferson Transit bus

Vac-Con Refresher Training

Vac-Con Trucks have become a powerful contributor to the maintenance tool chest for several departments. Thirty-four employees who regularly operate Vac-Con trucks attended refresher training. These employees work for Public Works, Sewerage, Streets, Drainage, and Fleet Management. The specialized training was delivered by Mr. Chris Kinchen, President of Covington Sales. This training will be offered to Parish employees yearly.

Everyone attending the training was pleased. Several employees stated that the training was well done, helpful, and informative. We are looking forward to more training next year.

Fire Drill

A fire drill was conducted at the Jefferson Parish Emergency Operations and Communications Center. The Safety Division would like to express thanks to Mr. **Chris Frazier**, Facilities Maintenance Manager with General Services, and **Timothy Gautreau**, the Assistant Director of

the Emergency Management Department. The fire drill went well and was an excellent opportunity for the Safety Division to work with Emergency Management and General Services. The Safety Division will begin scheduling fire drills for the Yenni Building and the Gretna Government Building soon.

Recreation Inspections

Fueling the need for playground inspections is the freedom parish children will soon be experiencing. The school year is nearing the end of this term. Additionally, spring time and summer will bring out young and older citizens alike seeking some refuge from day-to-day idleness. Tot Lots, playgrounds, walking tracks, and more are a valuable asset for the parish. Having a fresh set of eyes inspecting all recreation facilities will begin.

AED News

The list of departments having AEDs is being updated. AED batteries and pads have expiration dates. These dates are being updated, and new equip-



Tim Gautreau facilitates the Emergency Management fire drill

ment is being purchased. These items are costly; therefore stocking these items in large quantities is not the common practice. If expiration dates on this equipment are approaching, please relay this information to the Safety Division.

Backhoe Course Updating

The Backhoe and Medium Excavator Training is being updated. As newer equipment is purchased, newer operators are being utilized in the training. It is hoped that



Vac-Con Training

this updating will be practical. This will enhance the training in providing a more safety-conscious professional equipment operator.

Basic Supervision #3 “Safety”

The Safety Division provided three training sessions of “Basic Supervision #3 Safety” for our Parish supervisors during the month of April.

“Basic Supervision” is a ten-part training series, conducted by the Human Resource Management Training Division. The series provides supervisors with valuable information to assist them in the various duties they must perform as a supervisor.

The Human Resource Management Safety Division, in collaboration with various other departments, teaches the “Basic Supervision #3 Safety” class. This class basically covers all things related to keeping employees healthy and safe.

Safety Officer **Peggy Branan** provides information located in the Jefferson Parish Safety Manual, emphasizes the need for taking a proactive approach to being safe, explains what the various duties are for the supervisor related to safety, guides the participants on how to access the intranet to obtain information on training, and provides an overview of the transitional duty work program.

Risk Management’s **Brian Verrette**, explains the role that Risk Management plays in our organization. He explains how to proceed after an accident, the different types of claims, and the forms that may be used.

Environmental Affairs’ **Sami Khalil** provides valuable information on how to keep harmful substances from getting into our drainage system and polluting our land and waterways.



Environmental’s Sami Khalil assists with supervisory safety training

Security’s Director **Alex Norman** provides valuable information on ways to avoid becoming a victim of a crime. **Revy Antoine**, ID/Security Coordinator, provides information regarding the Parish ID program and the various security-related forms that are used.

The Water Department’s **Jesse Rosenfeld** provides information on the GEO TAB system. This is a tracking device that when placed in a Parish vehicle allows us to monitor various functions. For example, it can provide a report showing the amount of time the vehicle was traveling at a particular speed. While this device may incriminate a driver, it can also be used to vindicate a driver when being falsely accused. Ultimately, the goal is to keep our drivers safe.

Our United Health Care Onsite Wellness Coordinator, **Jenna Keating** explains the various programs available through United Health Care to improve the overall health and wellness of our employees.

Slips, Trips and Falls

Slips, trips, and falls continue to be a costly accident. It is strongly felt by Safety that some of these incidents are avoidable

if certain precautions are used. During weather events that generate a large amount of water, a mop and bucket are great tools that can be used to prevent slips on wet floors. During housekeeping mopping, “Caution Wet Surface” signs should be prominently displayed. This sounds simple, but it is really important. Please use these signs. The cost of pain and suffering in these injuries is more than what you might think. Please do not trivialize these types of incidents. These incidents hurt and are costly.

If you would like to obtain more information on any of the information noted above, please contact the Safety Division at 736-6129.



Retirements

Anthony Francis
General Services
36 years

John Piglia
Code Enforcement
33 years

Linda Fairchild
Code Enforcement
33 years

Linda Bostick
Juvenile Services
31 years

Hope Zamora
Streets
30 years

Linita Bonvillian
Drainage
30 years

Christopher Mire
Streets
30 years

Alice White
Workforce Investment
27 years

Gerard Gutierrez
Code Enforcement
26 years

Deborah MacCracken
Drainage
24 years

Pam Bailey
Parkways
23 years

Carroll Castille
Parks & Recreation
22 years

Randall Rappolo
EIS
21 years

Allen Orgeron
General Services
18 years

Sylvia Duplessis
JeffCAP
18 years



At the May 19 Council Meeting, the Environmental Department recognized the winners of recent project and essay contests.

—see story Page 21